



TMC unveils new college seal

Carefully crafted, the new seal symbolically captures the spirit and essence of the College



Continuing the Roman tradition

Recent Rome Semester report, plus TMC's inaugural Vatican lecture series



Dr. Sampo receives merit award

Higher education leaders in New England honor the College's founder

COMMUNITAS

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS MORE COLLEGE



A Celebration of Achievement

Also in this issue:
A New College Journal
Meet the Incoming Staff
Honoring a Legend

A responsibility for renewal

BY JEFFREY O. NELSON



I cannot think of a better way to launch a new format and look for *Communitas* than by celebrating the commencement of the College, Class of 2007. What began four years ago for this graduating class, and what must have seemed to them, on occasion, a much longer period of slow and, at times, painful learning, has now come to a close. They have labored to acquire what Cardinal Newman believed was the end of higher learning: the training of the intellect to form a philosophical habit of mind. Indeed, their minds and their characters have been exercised rigorously during their time at Thomas More College. Through daily and weekly academic exercises, they strove to move beyond the filling of the mind with su-

perficial knowledge. Rather, in accordance with Aristotle's notion of *paideia*, they disciplined their minds according to principles and methods from across the liberal arts—that is, the disciplines proper to a free man or woman.

These adults can now make critical judgments about the vast array of information on a variety of topics as they are presented throughout life. They can judge wisely and prudently because, as they demonstrated in their senior presentations, they have learned to assay the excellence of a thing: a discourse, a text, a poem.

The humane learning imparted by our professors to these graduates over the past four years has armored them against the consequences of intellectual fragmentation and moral confusion which afflict many other college students—both in their studies and in their campus life. Instead of collecting fragments of learning that happened to interest them—as students at other schools are taught to do—Thomas More College graduates have accumulated an ordered and inte-

grated body of knowledge and, in the process, developed the philosophical habit of mind.

Tocqueville once observed that every new generation is a fresh people. It is a truism that in our day the moral and intellectual capital of the past ages have been largely exhausted, and that American society and Western civilization are eroding at their foundations. Thomas More College students are blessed to receive an education that reacquaints them with the truths that created, and still nurture, America and the West. Having been gifted with this education, these young people have a responsibility to restore the shaken foundations of our culture in whatever vocation God, in His Providence, prepares for them. We all pray they do so with grace, wisdom, and intelligence. Enjoy the new *Communitas*!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey O. Nelson".

Jeffrey O. Nelson,
President

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Left: Senior Mary Elizabeth Gunyan is congratulated by College faculty and staff after receiving her diploma.

Center: President Nelson, Dr. Sampo, and the distinguished William Bulger.

Right: Dr. Connell shares a portion of his extensive knowledge with the students in Rome.



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President Emeritus honored with New Hampshire State Merit Award

On Friday, March 9, 2007, the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) honored Dr. Peter V. Sampo, President Emeritus of the Thomas More College of Liberal Arts, with its distinguished State Merit Award. The NEBHE bestowed this honor on Dr. Sampo because he “illustrates New England’s rich higher education resource and reflects NEBHE’s primary mission to ensure that *all* of our region’s students have access to quality, affordable higher education.”

Founded in 1955, the NEBHE was the brainchild of six New England governors who realized that the future prosperity of their region rested on the strength of their academic institutions. Rep. Maureen Mooney (*Class of 1997*), Assistant Republican Leader for the New Hampshire State House, nominated Dr. Sampo for this high honor, noting that “Dr. Sampo devoted his entire professional life to educating students in the liberal arts. His greatest accomplishment came in 1978 when he boldly founded the Thomas More College of Liberal Arts...”

Alumni, staff, and friends joined with NEBHE in honoring Dr. Sampo, including Jeffrey O. Nelson, Thomas More College’s President; Dr. Mary Mumbach, TMC’s Dean; Joseph Monaghan, TMC Trustee and alumnus (*Class of 1995*); Joseph Geiger, TMC alumnus (*Class of 2001*); Dr. Phil Crotty, TMC benefactor; and Nicholas Sanchez, TMC’s Director of External Affairs.

Weeks prior to the NEBHE award ceremony, Dr. Sampo was recognized by New Hampshire’s Governor, John Lynch, and the state’s Executive Council for receiving the NEBHE award. Because



Joseph Geiger, Jr. (Class of 2001), Rep. Maureen Mooney (Class of 1997), Dr. Mary Mumbach, and President Jeffrey Nelson join Dr. Peter Sampo (center) at the New England Board of Higher Education annual dinner, where Dr. Sampo was given the State Merit Award.

Dr. Sampo was scheduled to teach Thomas More College’s sophomore students in Rome at the time of the governor’s presentation, Dr. Mary Mumbach accepted the award on his behalf.

President Nelson noted: “This is precisely what sets Dr. Sampo apart from his peers in the higher education community. His duty is to teach students first. He had already committed to teaching the College’s sophomores in Rome, and he never considered abrogating that duty – even to receive such a high honor from the governor of New Hampshire.”

To this very day, the College continues to be guided by Dr. Sampo’s broad vision of making liberal, humane education available to anyone “regardless of race, class, or financial means.” The entire Thomas More College community congratulates Dr. Peter V. Sampo on his well-deserved award.

Thomas More College introduces *Second Spring*, new flagship journal “of faith and culture”

The Spring of 2007 marked another first for Thomas More College: the publication of its flagship journal, *Second Spring: An International Journal of Faith and Culture*. Founded and edited by Stratford and Léonie Caldecott, *Second Spring*'s mission is to explore and advance the mission of a Catholic intellectual in the context of contemporary culture.

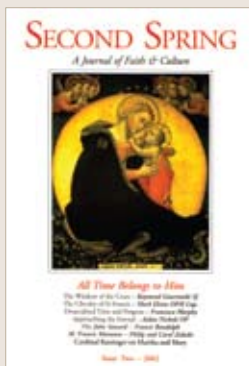
Published twice per year, *Second Spring* is substantive, thought-provoking, topical, and orthodox. It takes its bearings from the Communio theology pioneered by Pope Benedict XVI in his lifelong writings, and the thought of John Henry Newman, G. K. Chesterton, and the thinkers of the *ressourcement* movement in Catholic theology such as Hans Urs Von Balthasar and Henri de Lubac. Subjects regularly covered in *Second Spring* include the arts, sciences, technology, liturgy, new ecclesial movements (such as Opus Dei and Communion and Liberation), metaphysics, history, literature, poetry, and the world of books.

Dr. Mary Mumbach, dean of Thomas More College, commented on the need for such a journal: “We rejoice at the arrival of *Second Spring*, so welcome because of our common recognition of the joy—and the urgency—of a renewal of learning based in reflection on poetry, the arts, history, philosophy, and theology. The work of this extraordinary journal emphasizes that any contribution to the renewal of faith and culture through the intellectual life, if it is to be efficacious and enduring, must be profound, intelligent, gracious, and never elitist.”

The first issue of *Second Spring* published by Thomas More College was released in April. Its theme is “The Way of Beauty,” and it features articles by Oxford historian of science John Hedley Brooke on Charles Darwin, Smith College religious historian Carol Zaleski on the prospects for Catholic renewal as articulated by the “two Benedicts” (St. Benedict and Pope Benedict), and Stratford Caldecott's account of the conflict between modernist and humane architecture.

The upcoming issue of *Second Spring*, “The Genius of Women,” is scheduled for release this fall. This phrase, used by Pope John Paul II to describe the “New Feminism” which he felt was so necessary in our time, sums up the contributions women make to the Church and to society at large. Based on the exciting new writing coming from the women who have responded to John Paul's call, the next issue of *Second Spring* will explore the anthropological, theological, moral, and cultural questions raised by the New Feminism. Aware of the social changes of our time, all *Second Spring* contributors will bring to bear the rich resources of Christian tradition to the issues and problems that women face today.

The staff and faculty of Thomas More College are excited to have Stratford and Léonie Caldecott join the Thomas More family. As President Nelson said, “This is an ideal partnership, one aimed at furthering a new evangelization through the formation of young persons in the great tradition of Christian humanism rightly understood: the cultivation of intelligence, conscience, and grace. Thomas More College is excited to be joining with the Caldecotts in our common efforts to usher in a new springtime for the Church.”



MORE ABOUT *SECOND SPRING*

For more information about *Second Spring*, including subscriptions, publisher information, articles, and more, visit:

ThomasMoreCollege.edu/publications

Pomp & CIRCUMSTANCE

Students and parents mark four years' achievement and look to a future of service to Christ and His world; Catholic novelist Ron Hansen inspires Class of 2007

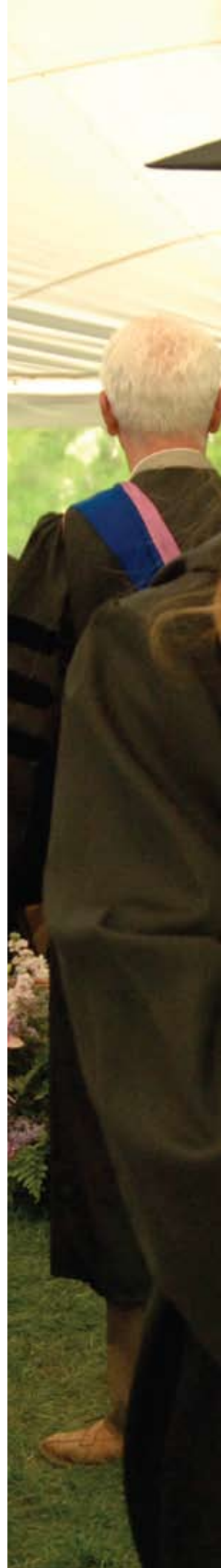
A college commencement is more than just a perfunctory handing out of degrees and an occasion for graduates to dress up in medieval garb. It is a ritual honoring each student's search for knowledge. Commencement—derived from the Latin word *inceptio*—is a rite of initiation. It marks the beginning of the next stage in life, be it as a graduate student or a working professional.

While the wise man remains a student all his life, commencement is an acknowledgement that a graduate has grown “in wisdom as well as years,” completed an intellectual formation, and is now ready to move into the next stage of his life. Modern colleges and universities have expanded upon this ritual, adding to it a series of preludes and prologues which underline its meaning. At Thomas More College, activities began, and largely remained, in the epicenter of this unique educational enterprise—the classroom.

In the Humanities classroom on the Friday evening preceding graduation, President Jeffrey O. Nelson moderated a round-

table discussion with the College's 2007 commencement speaker, Catholic novelist Ronald Hansen. Mr. Hansen, in addition to his duties as a professor at Santa Clara University and a Roman Catholic deacon, is the author of nine books, including *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*—which has been adapted into a movie starring Brad Pitt and will be released in theaters in October 2007.

Given the occasion to ask probing questions of a distinguished novelist and screenwriter, students wasted no time. In a lively back-and-forth, aspiring authors in the room asked Mr. Hansen about a writer's discipline, the sources of his inspiration, the craft of writing, and the tricky question of integrating one's faith in artistic projects without becoming didactic. Hansen discussed his personal faith and its role in his novels, the task of research in laying the groundwork for fiction, and the critical importance of writing as a habit, in a routine, and on a schedule. Said Hansen, “Follow that schedule whether you feel like it or not.”





*Graduate and philosophy
major Adam Cooper is
congratulated by faculty.*

On Saturday, the focus was on hearing from the graduates themselves as they presented synopses of their senior theses. In two different sessions—one in the Humanities room, the other under the main tent in the College courtyard—guests heard presentations on a myriad of thoughtful topics such as the statesmanship of Edmund Burke, Greeks and Moderns on the Essence of Man, and Poetry as Therapy.

On Sunday, under a brilliant blue sky, the Thomas More College of Liberal Arts officially bade farewell to 21 students at its annual graduation ceremony. The day's festivities began with the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass, celebrated by Rev. Alvaro de Silva, and celebrated by Rt. Rev. Robert F. Taft, S.J. and Rt. Rev. Andre St. Germain, two Catholic priests of the Byzantine rite. During his homily, Father de Silva made note of the fact that he had been praying for several days "on [his] hands and knees" for the splendid weather which all enjoyed that day. This drew laughter and mild applause from those in the audience who remembered last year's unremitting downpour of rain during graduation.

Following lunch, the academic procession began to the traditional musical offering of Paul Dukas's "Fanfare" and J.S. Bach's "O Gott, du frommer Gott." In his invocation, Father Taft—one of this year's honorees—implored the intercession of the College's patron, St.

Thomas More, asking that he "aid us to be as he was, witnessing, if not with our lives, at least by our lives, to the ideals we share with him...."

One thing set this commencement apart from previous Thomas More College ceremonies—a new president, Jeffrey Nelson, served as Master of Ceremonies. In his opening remarks, President Nelson began by offering congratulations to the parents of the graduates: "Your love and sacrifice for the education of your child has made this day possible. What began four years ago for this graduating class, and what must have seemed to them, on occasion, a much longer period of slow and, at times, painful learning, has now come to a close."

President Nelson closed by exhorting the graduates: "Make good use of the critical mind and moral conscience you formed during your time here, not simply for your own gain, but for the benefit of others. ...And in the spirit of this College, be animated by the wisdom of St. Paul that *"caritas congaudet veritati"* (charity rejoices in truth).

Following President Nelson's opening address, the College heard Ronald Hansen's commencement address and conferred honorary doctorates to its three honorees, Ronald Hansen, Dr. John Lukacs, and Father Taft. (Please see sidebar for a digest of Dr. Lukacs's and Father Taft's remarks.)



Biology major Elizabeth Bauer receives her hood, symbolizing the attainment of a liberal arts degree.



Dr. Mumbach and Mary Bauer, proud mother of graduate Elizabeth Bauer, share a light moment.



The 2007 graduates close the day with a traditional tossing of their caps.



President Nelson challenges students to witness to what they have learned at TMC.

Mr. Hansen began his commencement address by wryly admitting that he himself has “no memories whatsoever of the commencement speaker at [his] own graduation.” Citing in his speech Shakespeare, Newman, and St. Augustine (among others), Hansen shared some advice he had received from comedian Bob Newhart about giving commencement speeches: “...always mention Kafka ... whoever he or she is.”

On a more serious note, the distinguished novelist adjured the graduating class to choose “the plot of excellence, not mediocrity, the plot of love, not strife, the plot of courage, not complacency, the plot of integrity, not compromise, the plot of calling, not career, the plot of selfless giving, not acquisition, the plot of exaltation of the spirit, not the fleeting satisfaction, not the flesh.” Hansen went on to say, “We celebrate here not only our achievements, for which you and your families are justifiably proud, but God’s gracious invitation to go still further, to enlarge yourselves, to risk seeking the highest goals, while at the same time to recognize that our lives are not just about doing, but being—of letting yourselves be loved by God for your very you-ness.”

Speeches then gave way to ceremony, and the conferral of the Bachelor of Arts Degrees. Graduating this year were: Therese Bernadette Arbery, Sarah Rebecca Arbery, Catherine Barry, Elizabeth Mary Bauer, Christopher Nathaniel Bersaw, Jeremiah Edward Martin Chichester, Adam David Cooper, Veronica Ginnny Frances Cowan, Jennifer Mae Gehly, Mary Elizabeth Guynan, John Milton Hinkle II, Jesse O’Leary Kurtz, Timothy Ryan McGuire, Caitlyn Anne Murphy, John Robert Pakala, Sebastian David Rohlfing, Neil Joseph Saindon, Paige Elizabeth Scarlett, Edward Patrick Sifert, Finbar Michael Sullivan, and Richard Goddin Worsham.

The presence of a new president was not this year’s only first for Thomas More College. The College also awarded its first Honorary Bachelors Degree to a student not present—John Blonski. A popular and greatly missed member of the Class of 2007, John drowned while swimming in Bowers Pond near the campus on



Novelist Ronald Hansen delivers the 2007 TMC commencement speech, exhorting students to risk seeking the highest goals in life, to live a life of integrity, and to never compromise on the important things.

the afternoon of June 7, 2005. The graduating class had discussed ways in which their fallen schoolmate could be recognized during commencement, and reached the consensus that he should graduate along with his classmates, if only in spirit. Now John will be forever linked to his class—both in their prayers, and on the official College register of graduates.

To the great joy of the Thomas More Community, members of the Blonski family were on hand for graduation. John’s brother was presented the framed certificate by President Nelson from the rostrum, and thunderous applause ensued. The day ended with a few final reflections by Rev. Andre St. Germain, a local priest and friend of the College. He reminded the assemblage that this year’s graduation was taking place during the Eastertide of both the Eastern and Western calendars.

And so as the graduates were called to go out into the world, he extolled them to “remember always the triumphal call of this season: Christ is risen!” Indeed He is risen! And so passes another commencement into the collective memory of the Thomas More College community.

Hansen, Lukacs, Taft awarded honorary degrees

Each year, colleges across the country try to land popular movie stars, comedians, and other members of the entertainment industry to speak at their graduation ceremonies. At Thomas More College, we seek the brightest minds and liveliest pens. This year was no exception.

In addition to Ronald Hansen, the College also honored and heard words of wisdom from Dr. John Lukacs, an eminent historian of the 20th century, and the Right Reverend Archimandrite Robert F. Taft, S.J., one of the world's leading experts on the liturgies of the Church.

Giving his speech in a measured and eloquent voice, flavored by his distinctive Hungarian accent, Dr. Lukacs warned the 2007 graduates of the “crisis of materialism” facing the country, noting specifically how the contemporary notion of “success” has become unhinged from its classic connection to the virtues of “thrift, hard work, and commitment.” Dr. Lukacs averred that too many in the West who enjoy great wealth have lost their respect for artistic and literary culture, while “what was once called the ‘middle class’ has disappeared,” along with the virtues that helped build what Marxists sneer at as “bourgeois civilization.”

The result is a new psychic or spiritual poverty, which hollows out the lives of the prosperous, and helps deprive the poor of the moral compass they need to better themselves. Said Dr. Lukacs, “it is because of the denial of the intrusion of spirit into matter that conditions that were once relievable or curable are not so anymore.” He urged the graduates to go forth and revel in the spiritual riches they had acquired in the course of their Thomas More College education.

A scion of the Ohio family of conservative statesmen, Rev. Robert Taft, S.J. received his honorary degree wearing his black Byzantine-rite “*ryassa*,” or cassock, along with dual gold pectoral crosses denoting his ecclesiastical dignity as a “mitred Archimandrite.” Father Taft



(Left) Dr. John Lukacs warns students of the dangers of materialism; (Right) Rev. Robert Taft, S.J., implores them to stick to their convictions if they truly want to make a difference in life.



delivered a powerful talk that ran the emotional gamut, by turns waxing funny, reflective, somber, and hopeful. Most moving was his recollection of the Soviet persecution of the Ukrainian Catholic Church—and a moment when hundreds of Eastern-rite Catholics, led by their underground, unregistered, illegal bishop and priests, peacefully retook a cathedral in the city of Ivano-Frankivsk that had been confiscated and turned into a museum of Atheism. This story, Fr. Taft said, showed how “individuals with principles and the guts to stick to them can make a difference.” To underscore the point, he said, “Priests of the Russian tradition like me wear a pectoral cross that often has engraved on the back in Church Slavonic, our liturgical language, ‘*Obraz budi*’—You be the sign!”

This combination of learned and accomplished speakers, in an atmosphere of gratitude, justified pride, and prayer, made for a memorable and uplifting graduation weekend.

MORE FROM THE HONOREES

To access the full text and download audio of the commencement speech and honorary remarks, visit:

ThomasMoreCollege.edu/graduation

New College seal radiates mission, purpose

This summer, the Thomas More College of Liberal Arts unveiled its new College seal. After months of constructive and spirited discussions among faculty and staff, this collaborative effort produced a seal that displays the spirit and essence of Thomas More College that is all its own. Each symbolic element of the art was chosen carefully to reflect Thomas More College's past, present, and future.

COLORS

The gold in the seal symbolizes generosity of spirit and the serious elevation of mind, while black indicates both a constancy in intention and act as well as a humility and sense of mortification. Red emphasizes the virtues of the soldier and martyr, especially fortitude and magnanimity—most important to a college whose patron saint is a martyr.

HERALDIC LINES

TMC's seal has only one heraldic line: the chevron. The chevron indicates the perseverance of one who builds, reminding us all of Dr. Peter Sampo's tireless work in founding and building Thomas More College.

THE CHARGES (PICTORIAL IMAGES PLACED THROUGHOUT THE ARMS)

The scalloped shells, evoking the arms of Compostella, symbolize the great pilgrims of sacred and literary history, such as Abraham, Jonah, Odysseus, Dante, and Chaucer's travelers to Canterbury. In the Middle Ages, all men were viewed as cosmic pilgrims en route to their final destination. The student, in particular, was a pilgrim. Though he may think his work ordinary and involving little movement, even on the most routine day on campus, the student remains an extraordinary pilgrim. The use of three shells is a reminder of the Blessed Trinity—our point of origination and our destination.

The next element in the arms, the rose, recalls Dante's *Paradiso*, in which he beholds "the Mystic Rose in which the Word Divine

became incarnate." The five petals of the Rose commemorate the five wounds of Christ and His blood poured out for mankind. The Rose is depicted as "barbed vert," that is, with green foliage showing beneath the flower. It is without thorn, however, and of one color—always an indication of purity in heraldic imagery.

The Rose of Thomas More College is guarded by the two swords that represent the unity between Faith and Reason—between *Intellectus* (poetic or mystical knowledge) and *Ratio* (discursive reasoning), between the Spiritual and Temporal, as well as the continuity of the Western tradition. By extension, it represents integration and wholeness, the hallmark of Thomas More College's educational vision, and indeed, of the great tradition of Christian Humanism of which we are a creative part.

Thomas More College's faculty and staff are proud to introduce this new seal, which will serve as a constant reminder to those working to advance this remarkable College, as well as to the College's benefactors and friends, of all that Thomas More College represents in higher education and what it is trying to accomplish for the Church.





After 25 years, Brian Shea is a legend in philosophy

“Those who attended your classes saw, in every class, something unique at the very heart of philosophy: thinking itself was heroic.”

There is nearly one universal among alumni of Thomas More College: Brian Shea is among the greatest teachers they have ever had. Mr. Shea, a longtime philosophy mentor at the College, continues as a formative influence today. One can see the impact that Mr. Shea has on students just by watching them leave his Humanities class. While one freshman will seem to have been literally struck dumb, another seems giddy and excited, and the next is dashing off to his books, eager to test the insights he has gleaned in class against the texts.

Mr. Shea’s teaching partakes of genuine profundity, and, more importantly, evokes in every student a fervent desire to learn. For more than a quarter of a century now, Brian Shea has served the Thomas More College community by unraveling the confused, skewering the absurd, and clarifying the obscure. In recognition of his service and talents, President Nelson recently appointed him Assistant Professor of Humanities.

Born in New York and educated as a teen by the Jesuits, Mr. Shea completed his undergraduate studies at the College of the Holy Cross; he later received his

M.A. in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at Oxford University. Mr. Shea began teaching Philosophy at Thomas More College in 1981.

When asked why teach here at Thomas More College and not somewhere else, Mr. Shea answered, “Something is happening here that I don’t believe is happening anywhere else. I felt the difference the moment I set foot on campus.” Mr. Shea has become a vital part of that difference. In fact, not one alumnus or alumna reminisces on Thomas More College without some fond, amazing, or hilarious story with Mr. Shea in the center of things. Here are a few memories and fond words from his former (yet perpetual) students:

No one can forget that decisive moment in Rome—not only for all undecided majors, but for all—when you brought your lecture to its culmination by pausing and almost whispering, “What Immanuel Kant did ... was magnificent.” We all had goose bumps! Those who attended your classes saw, in every class, something unique at the very heart of philosophy: thinking itself was heroic. –Will Cowan

After initially experiencing your thundering, articulate, and commanding voice and teaching methods in Humanities, I think the universal effect upon the listener is a kind of awe (if not fear) steeped in curiosity; a kind of wonder and amazement at what this single man actually knows and the precise way in which that knowledge is conveyed. The gifts of knowledge and understanding you have imparted unto us are in fact of divine origin insofar as they are what Christ promised us in the advocacy of the Holy Spirit.

—Joseph Geiger

I want to say that I think you could make a mint if you ever published as a storyteller—you always had fascinating and often hilarious stories to tell us—and where ever two or more Thomas More students are gathered, it is guaranteed that some stories either involving you or told by you are brought up as if for the first time. You are an integral part of the character of Thomas More and of what I have taken from my experience there. —Melissa Truman-Schools

In addition to teaching philosophy and Greek and Roman history, Mr. Shea started a prayer group. He also started a debating club. He also put on, with the somewhat willing assistance of Sampo and Mumbach, a presentation of Sophocles' *The Clouds*. My sophomore year he hosted a burlesque—I recall his imitation of Joe Phillips yelling up the stairs to Devra Prever. He also hosted our Halloween dress-up dance—in a tux. With Mr. Shea we also had hour-long weekly writing tutorials. He was later in charge of practical matters such as clean-up and discipline. —Gregory Marks

With his distinctive blend of an imposing presence, and a gentle concern for students' development, Mr. Shea has proven a godsend for Thomas More College and its students. While Mr. Shea holds his own strong views in the field of philosophy, he is renowned for the courtesy with which he treats all serious thinkers. The respectful attention to different opinions and alternative ideas—without sacrificing the quest for Truth—is a mark of the spirit which infused our namesake, Thomas More, and the other Catholic humanists he counted as his friends. It is fitting that this spirit survives at Thomas More College; Mr. Brian Shea is one of the teachers who helps keep it alive.



YOUR LEGACY GIFT TODAY WILL MAKE THE PAST COME ALIVE TOMORROW

As the world changes, one thing remains the same: each new generation needs to be developed intellectually and spiritually, based on the magisterial wisdom of the Catholic Church.

A legacy gift today will help to ensure that the insights and ideas of the great classical and Christian humanists are kept alive, including Plato, Cicero, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Dante, Shakespeare, Cardinal John Henry Newman, G. K. Chesterton—and, in our own time, Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

If you have any questions or would like your legacy gift to be designated toward a specific fund, such as the scholarship fund, building fund, or the St. John Vianney Fund for Future Priests and the St. Mother Katherine Drexel Fund for Future Nuns, please contact Charlie McKinney at (603) 880-8308, ext. 21 or by email at cmckinney@ThomasMoreCollege.edu.

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Spring lecture series in review



United States Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-CO) speaks to Thomas More College students and guests about his vision for the future of America and his bid for the presidency. He praised TMC's comprehensive liberal arts curriculum, rooted in the Western tradition.

FEBRUARY 2, 2007

“Where Is the Wisdom We Have Lost in Knowledge?': The Cultural Tragedy of the Enlightenment,” Christopher Blum, incoming Professor of Humanities, Thomas More College

In a sweeping lecture, Dr. Christopher Blum explored how the Enlightenment helped precipitate man's turning away from the knowledge of God and towards the knowledge of man and the world. Examining the critical works and authors of the period—specifically, Denis Diderot and Jean d' Alembert's *Encyclopedia*, as well as Immanuel Kant's essay, *What is Enlightenment?*—he discussed how the tragedy of the Enlightenment helped usher in a modern culture that has little regard for those things which are Good, True, and Beautiful.

Knowing the nature of things, according to d' Alembert, was less important than being able to master their effects. Thus, encapsulated is the Enlightenment's standard of knowledge—namely, the idea of specialized expertise, eschewing the Aristotelian model (which attested to man's natural “desire to know”) so favored by St. Thomas Aquinas. Experimentation and observation led man to a knowledge of physical things, and that was what, for many Enlightenment thinkers, led to true happiness and the end of knowledge; spiritual realities were dismissed as unconsidered superstitions

FEBRUARY 5, 2007

“The Best Reader of Thomas More's *Utopia*,” Fr. Alvaro de Silva

Father Alvaro lectured at the College's annual banquet in celebration of Saint Thomas More's birthday. Father Alvaro is one of the leading scholars of Saint Thomas More (1478-1535) in both the English- and Spanish-speaking worlds. His lecture explored the amazing and far-reaching influence of More's *Utopia* on early Christian communities in Mexico. He specifically discussed how the reading of *Utopia* by Vasco de Quiroga in 1530 impacted the political and cultural life of Mexico and its inhabitants for centuries to come.

FEBRUARY 23, 2007

“Julius Caesar,” Dr. Glenn Arbery, author, senior editor, *Park Cities People*, and Dr. Virginia Arbery, University of Texas at Dallas

This lively discussion between two wedded academics presented contrasting views of Julius Caesar and his legacy. Dr. Virginia Arbery jabbed at Julius Caesar for transforming Rome from a Republic into Empire—and through his own extraordinary strength encouraging a weak citizenry dependent on their rulers. Caesar strangled the republican virtues and the liberty which had been the source of Rome's true greatness. In contrast,

Dr. Glenn Arbery argued that Caesar's nearly miraculous military and political accomplishments saved Rome as a polity, and established a new and glorious political order which continued in some form in the East until 1453—and served as the model for order in the West. Both Arberys are dear friends to TMC—and we enjoyed their return.

MARCH 12, 2007

**“The Future of America,” Rep. Tom Tancredo
Republican presidential candidate and Colorado
Congressman**

Tom Tancredo visited Thomas More College in March during one of his New Hampshire visits to share with students his vision for the future of America. He talked about the importance of Western civilization and the need for its preservation if America is to remain free and prosperous. He praised the College for its strong curriculum, one that teaches the best of what has been thought and said throughout American and European history. Thomas More College has

an open door policy wherein any politician may speak to and be challenged by our students.

MARCH 16

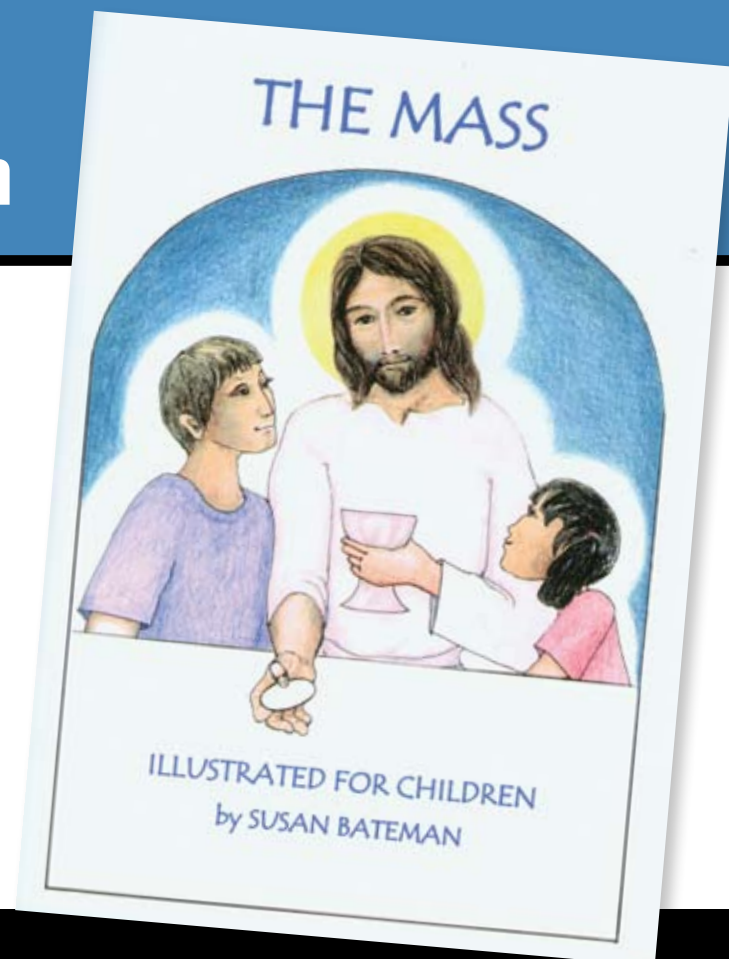
**“The Apotropaic,” Dr. Kathleen Marks (Class of
1986), St. John's University**

Is it possible for sufferers of overwhelming acts of aggression to make a break for freedom from a situation of apparent entrapment? According to Dr. Marks, enactments of an ancient ritual called “apotropaic” reveal one startling pattern of response: by enacting violence on themselves in self-destructive acts, even noble and courageous victims may, shockingly, seek to re-assert their own power of choice, resisting the attempts of aggressors to cast them solely as victims. Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and Toni Morrison's *Beloved* were among the sources of Dr. Marks's reflection, which focused on the possibility of discerning a renewed spirit, a way of reaching transformative insight and even redemption in the wake of violence and exploitation.

The Mass Illustrated for Children

The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts is distributing this new resource to help children delve deeper into the mystery and meaning of the Mass so they develop the fundamental reverence which nurtures a maturing faith. Unlike other children's guides, *The Mass Illustrated for Children* invites young people to color the pictures and scenes, leading the child through each component of the Mass and providing abundant food for the imagination.

To order your copy of *The Mass Illustrated for Children*, please visit ThomasMoreCollege.edu/Mass. Bulk order discounts are available.

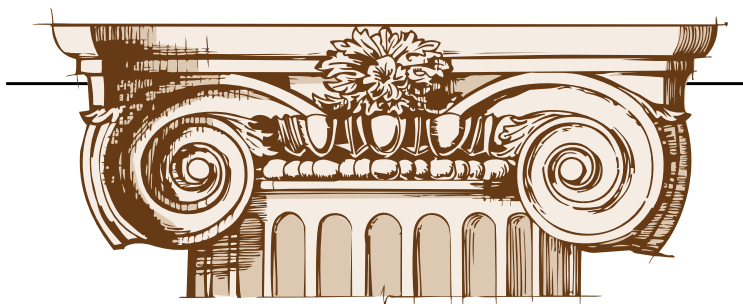


**THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
of LIBERAL ARTS**

Six Manchester Street, Merrimack, NH 03054
Ph (603) 880-8308 | info@ThomasMoreCollege.edu



A ROMAN PILGRIMAGE



On April 20, the Thomas More College of Liberal Arts successfully completed its popular Rome semester. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—which the College has offered students since 1983—to live and study in the capital of Christendom has been described by both students and alumni as one of the most transformative elements of the Thomas More College experience. Twenty-six students participated in the most recent three-month program, following an intensive course of studies in Medieval Philosophy and Literature in the Humanities, a course in the writing Workshop sequence, Sacramental Theology, and Art and Architecture of Rome.

Rome as a city is an experience in and of itself, fraught with adventure and distractions, along with the evidence of sanctity. To round out their experience of Italy, TMC complements the times spent in this bustling city with special trips to more serene locales such as Assisi, Subiaco (site of the Holy Cave of St. Benedict), Orvieto, Ostia Antica (the ancient port of Rome),

Cerveteri (home of the Etruscan Tombs), and Florence.

Over the years, the Rome semester has become an integral part of our curriculum, and it is difficult to imagine the education at the College without it. Just as on the home campus in Merrimack, the students follow an Order of the Day, which is designed to make their days as full and productive as possible. Mornings are devoted to class lectures and informative tours of the city, with afternoons and most evenings free. The entire TMC community later gathers together for dinner at 8:00pm, family style, and students recount the adventures of the day.

The students reside in a guest house on the Janiculum Hill in the Monte Verde Vecchio quarter of Rome, minutes away from Trastevere and many of the major sites in the city. Their hosts are the Sisters of the Divine Savior, nuns whose stated charism is: "...to be deeply rooted in Jesus, our Savior, as we share His mission of worldwide evangelization...." The sisters supply a full buffet breakfast for the students as well as



2007 ROME SEMESTER PARTICIPANTS:

John Blazewicz <i>Hollidaysburg, PA</i>	Jacinta Latawicz <i>Wyoming, MN</i>
Catherine Burke <i>Worcester, MA</i>	Michael Lichens <i>Eugene, OR</i>
Aerin Commins <i>Chelmsford, MA</i>	Martin Lockerd <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>
Gemma Cowhig <i>White Rock, BC</i>	Haeley Matulevich <i>Loysville, PA</i>
Lacey Desch <i>Topeka, KS</i>	Joseph Mazzarella <i>East Boston, MA</i>
Paul Durst <i>Silver Spring, MD</i>	Sarah Maw <i>Nokesville, VA</i>
Joseph Ellis <i>DePere, WI</i>	Rebecca McGarry <i>Still River, MA</i>
MaryAnne Garner <i>Kent, WA</i>	Patrick Michaud <i>Walpole, MA</i>
John Paul Hammond <i>Burlington, VT</i>	Daria Mironova <i>Westerly, RI</i>
Ashley Hatashita <i>Kanata, ON</i>	Lucas Murray <i>East Middlebury, VT</i>
Mark Hieronymus <i>Bedford, NH</i>	Roland Nobile <i>Greenland, NH</i>
Jacqueline Janik <i>Lake Oswego, OR</i>	Miriam Prever <i>Claremont, NH</i>
Jeremy Lagasse <i>Bedford, NH</i>	Jozef Schutzman <i>Syracuse, NY</i>

classroom space. There is also a garden and a chapel on site as well as a park across the street called the Villa Sciarra, known in Rome for its variety of shrubs and trees. The College considers itself privileged to have such a campus in Rome at its disposal and is very grateful to the Sisters of the Divine Savior for their hospitality and kindness.

During the Rome semester all activities are unified to create an order of the day: work, study, prayer, tours, eating, and drinking. One aspect of the program informs another, until the students are hard put to distinguish work from play—whether it is playful work or serious play. As A. G. Sertillanges states in his book, *The Intellectual Life: Its Spirit, Conditions, Methods* (one of the books the sophomores read this semester), “It is a glorious thing to be wholly engaged in what one is doing, like God, who is not separate from His work.” For most students during the Rome Semester, there is the sense that, for a brief period at least, they caught a glimpse of life from God’s point of view.

NOTES FROM THE PILGRIMAGE

Ashley Hatashita, *Class of 2009*

Over the course of the semester in Rome, I have not only had a profound intellectual experience, but I have also undergone a major spiritual transformation, and I have come to understand how intricately linked liberal arts studies and one’s growth as a Christian are. While in Rome, we toured various buildings, churches, and galleries, in order to study their art and architecture. Although the focus of these visits may seem purely intellectual, one cannot help, especially in the churches, to see how it is all interconnected with spiritual growth.

The churches of Rome are nothing if not incredibly moving—for both mind and spirit. They naturally engage the spirit in what the mind is learning. Having undergone my conversion to Catholicism while here in Rome, I must credit the experience of visiting those churches, among many things. The material that we read in our Humanities cycle is a perfect complement to a spiritual journey—I was particularly fortunate in that we studied the medieval period while in Rome, which was an incredible match to what was occurring spiritually in my life.

Furthermore, I must credit the example of my fellow students. Many of them, knowing far more about Catholicism than I could hope to at such an early stage in my faith, were instrumental in helping me undergo

my transformation. And, amazingly, I saw them undergo their own transformations. The simple experience of being in Rome has helped many to strengthen their faith, and I have even seen some who had fallen away from their faith be reborn, in a sense, because of Rome and the liberal arts program. I will always be immensely grateful for this experience and how it has changed me, intellectually and spiritually, for the better.

Jeremy Lagasse, Class of 2009

Rome can be understood by me in two different, but related ways. The first is in terms of St. Augustine who spoke so vehemently about the refining fire that perfects some and leaves others only fit for the sewer, as those who would be spewed from the mouth of God. Rome can be like this.

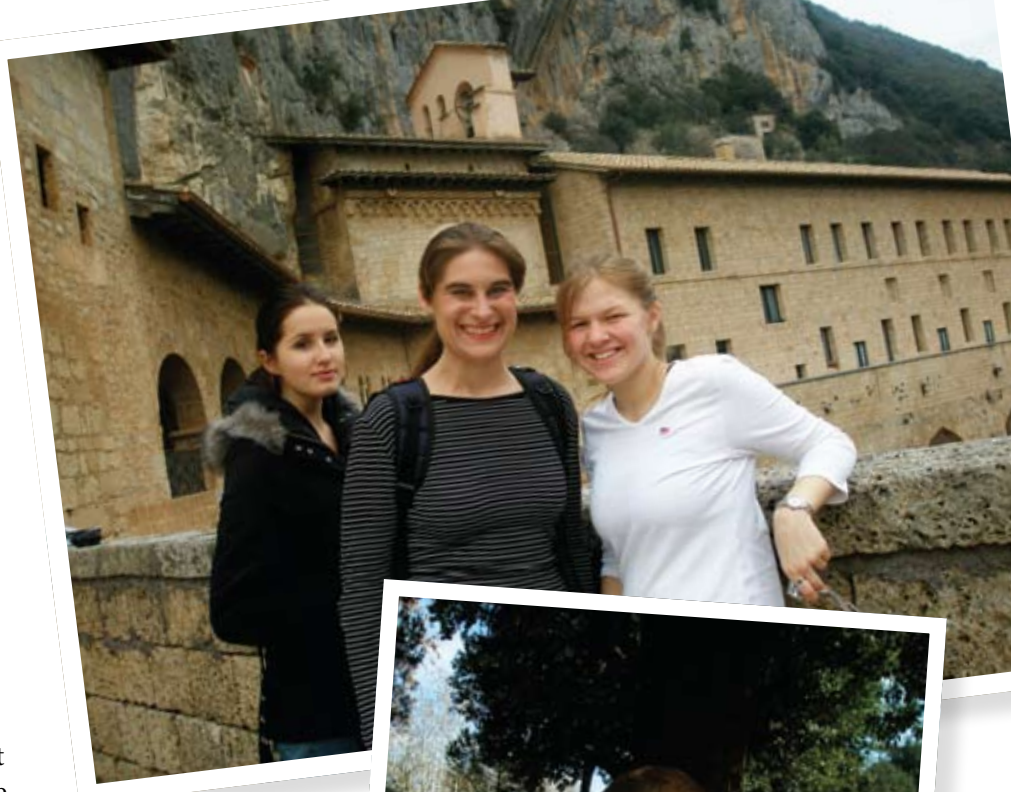
Rome has also been a romantic place, and by that I am referring to the fires. This is a city in which one can become a host for fire: the fire of love, passion, the dull flame; it is a place where one's own fire takes on a certain identity insofar as it is called to by the ebb and flow of the city.

Michael J. Lichens, Class of 2009

Rome is a big, dirty, very noisy city. Full of history, sights, and a densely peculiar people, it is often difficult to fully study here. On that thought, Rome is a city that speaks truly to the individual, though that truth can be hard to hear. Everyone knows horror stories of people losing faith and ambition in Rome, I answer that they do because the city is painful in unveiling the person.

What Rome has offered me is a chance to fully understand my own inner workings and my desires in worship and study. I was who I truly was in Rome, and in this way I believe the program is successful. I have no doubt that I can move further in my life and education because of what Rome has spoken, and for that I wouldn't trade this experience for anything.

My journal was titled "The Unintended Pilgrim" because I feel this whole program is a pilgrimage: painful, difficult, joyful—but, at the end, it is truth. It is for this that we walk, that we may find truth and bring peace to our souls."



John Paul Hammond, Class of 2009

Long did I hear that Rome would be a transformative experience prior to my semester here [in Rome]. While I am still not sure of its "transformation" of me, Rome has certainly fostered growth within me. I have learned the brevity of life and the need for responsible spontaneity.

There is a need to be the same, and a need to change; for a man to have tenets and convictions is a commendable thing, but he, too, must know when to make exceptions. Rome encourages the student to diligently work, and in an efficient manner, to do one's work and then go out and enjoy life. Sad is the man who shuts himself off into a provincial and mistakenly secure view of life.

For a summation—one will both damn and love Rome in a single breath, but Rome offers you a panorama of humanity and a landscape to be a man.

Introducing the Vatican Forum lecture series, Rome

Thomas More College recently joined *Inside the Vatican* magazine in co-sponsoring the Vatican Forum lecture series, founded in 2003 by new staff member and journalist Andrea Kirk Assaf.

Students participating in Thomas More College's Rome Program had the opportunity to attend lectures and discussions last semester with Robert Royal, the founder of the Faith and Reason Institute, and with a panel of young people who shared their personal experiences of working at the Vatican. The college also co-sponsored forums on Flannery O'Connor and the problem of modernism with Dr. Hank Edmondson, and on religion and civil society in the twenty-first century with Dr. John Farina.

The aim of the Vatican Forum is to educate students on current themes in the Church and society by bringing them together with experts in an accessible venue. The events are held at the Centro Russia Ecumenica on Borgo Pio in the shadow of the Vatican and have attracted Vatican-based journalists, seminarians, officials of the Roman Curia, students at pontifical universities, and members of the general public.



Thomas More College's sophomore students, in Rome for their Spring 2007 semester, listen to Dr. Robert Royal at TMC's new Vatican Forum lecture series.

VATICAN FORUM EVENTS, SPRING 2007

JANUARY 16, 2007

"The Problem of Modernism in the Thought of Benedict XVI and Flannery O'Connor"

Dr. Hank Edmondson, *Georgia College and State University*

MARCH 6, 2007

"The God That Did Not Fail: How Religion Built and Sustains the West"

Dr. Robert Royal, *The Faith and Reason Institute*

APRIL 17, 2007

"A Young Person's Perspective on Working at the Vatican"

Peter Martin, *U.S. Embassy to the Holy See*; Kishore Jayabala, *Acton Institute*, formerly of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace; and Andrea Assaf, *Vatican-based journalist*, formerly of *Caritas Internationalis*

MAY 8, 2007

"The Intelligible Sphere: Religion and Civil Society in the 21st Century"

Dr. John Farina, *George Mason University*

Thomas More College honors three champions of faith and constitutionalism

On Sunday, January 21, 2007, on the Georgetown University campus, Thomas More College and the National Clergy Council (of which TMC trustee, Paul Schenck, serves as member of the Board of Scholars) co-hosted a unique event honoring three distinguished men for their service to the causes of scholarship, public education, and advocacy for the sanctity of human life.

The College awarded honorary doctorates to David T. Pride, executive director of the Supreme Court Historical Society; Michael Peroutka, founder of the Institute on the Constitution; and Stephen Peroutka, chairman of the National Pro-life Action Center. David Pride's Supreme Court Historical Society, founded in 1974, documents the history of our nation's highest court and hosts the public at lectures by distinguished scholars. In his remarks, Mr. Pride spoke of "the vital role Christianity plays in American civilization," and lauded TMC's faculty, students, and staff.

A prominent political activist, Michael Peroutka is a Maryland lawyer and once held a position in the United States Department of Health and Human Services—a position he felt compelled to resign when he "recognized that none of the programs on which he was working were constitutionally permissible." In 2004, Mr. Peroutka was the Constitution Party's candidate for president of the United States. His was the only third party in the 2004 election to increase its share of the vote. After his electoral efforts, Mr. Peroutka helped found the Institute on the Constitution, an educational institute which takes as its core curriculum such seminal documents in the history of liberty as the Magna Carta, the Kentucky Resolution, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The IOC provides information packets to students, voters and lawmakers, and currently hosts classes in eighteen states across the country.

Stephen Peroutka, Michael's brother, is the chairman of the National Pro-life Action

center on Capitol Hill. He is also the host of two talk radio programs and a nationally-distributed television show, *Face the Truth*. He co-founded with his brother the Institute on the Constitution, and serves as a trustee for the Conservative Caucus and Pro-life Maryland. Mr. Peroutka, founder of the National Pro-Life Appreciation Annual Dinner, put his listeners on notice that "the legal regime of *Roe v. Wade* is destined to collapse soon"—offering advocates of human life a vast array of new opportunities and challenges. The question, Peroutka said, is whether we will be up to changing hearts as well as laws.

President Nelson would later comment on Peroutka's remarks while speaking to the National Council of the Priests for Life on the eve of the 2007 March for Life: "The courts may strike down *Roe v. Wade*, but they cannot strike down relativism, skepticism, political correctness, and all the other intellectual and moral ideologies that plague our time. In some ways our battle will grow fiercer and darker before we can hope to return to a culture that cherishes life as a matter of course, as an internalized habit of being."



Jeffrey Nelson, Michael Peroutka, David Pride, Stephen Peroutka, Pat Monaghan, and Paul Schenck (from left) pose after honorary degrees were awarded.

TMC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TMC welcomes new faculty, staff

President Jeffrey O. Nelson is pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. William E. Fahey as Provost/Academic Vice President and Professor of Humanities; Dr. Christopher O. Blum as Professor of Humanities; Andrea and Tony Assaf as program directors for the Vatican Forum; Valerie Burgess as Executive Assistant to the President; and John Zmirak as Writer-in-Residence and Special Assistant to the President. Below in alphabetical order are biographical and other related details.

Andrea Kirk Assaf



Andrea Kirk Assaf received her M.A. in liberal arts from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, in 1999. Immediately following graduation she attended the International Institute for Political and Economic Studies in Athens, Greece. She went on to the National Journalism Center in Washington, D.C., where she commenced a career in journalism, specializing in news about the Catholic Church as well as the Middle East.

After spending six months traveling through Europe as a freelance journalist interviewing European conservatives, Andrea settled in Rome where she has worked for the last five years writing for such publications as *Inside the Vatican* magazine, United Press International, *Newsmax* magazine and website, *Our Sunday Visitor*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and for the

Vatican's charitable organization, Caritas Internationalis.

In 2003, she was awarded a Phillips Foundation fellowship to research the relationship between the Bush Administration and the Vatican. She has been interviewed on this and other topics by Zenit News Agency, Global Journalist Radio, Deutsche Welle Radio, Relevant Radio, and *Niedziela*, a Polish newspaper.

In 2003, she founded the Vatican Forum, a lecture series that brings Church experts to the general public to discuss issues in the news or cultural themes involving the Church. Speakers have included Italian politician and philosophy professor Rocco Buttiglione, veteran Catholic journalist and author Russell Shaw, Faith and Reason Institute founder Robert Royal, Priests for Life director Fr. Frank Pavone, neuroscientist and theologian Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, president of the Culture of Life foundation Austin Ruse, and the editor of *Inside the Vatican* magazine, Robert Moynihan, among others. Topics have included Church-State relations, bioethics, Flannery O'Connor and the problem of modernism, G.K. Chesterton, international law, and the papal conclave.

Tony Assaf



Tony Assaf studied philosophy, theology, and oriental studies in Rome, receiving his B.A. from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in 2000. He also received an International Masters Certifi-

cate in Management and Communication for Cultural Politics from the Libera Università di Santa Maria Assunta in 2004.

During his nine years in Rome, Mr. Assaf has worked for the United Nation's World Food Programme, the Italian news agency AdnKronos, the Italian television company RAI, as an on-call translator for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and as a co-founder and researcher for the Italian think-tank Middle Eastern Geopolitical Observer. He also worked as a personal assistant to a Cardinal at the International House of Clerics and as a volunteer for Caritas Internationalis. In the field of communications, he has written for *Inside the Vatican* magazine, and interned in the Arabic section of Vatican Radio. He is the founder of the Arabic version of Zenit News Agency, for which he serves as editor, translator, journalist, and fund-raiser.

Mr. Assaf is a native speaker of Arabic and is also fluent in Italian, French, and English with an academic knowledge of Latin, Greek, and Siro-Aramaic. The village in Lebanon where Mr. Assaf was reared speaks the dialect of Aramaic spoken by Our Lord. He was honored, on occasion, to be a lector at Masses celebrated for his Holiness John Paul II and to read the scripture in the original Aramaic. One occasion, Mr. Assaf read for the Pope at the Christmas midnight Mass.

Mr. Assaf will join the College in August as the Program Director for TMC's soon-to-be-launched Vatican Studies Center.

Christopher Olaf Blum



Christopher Blum will join the faculty of Thomas More College bringing with him over a decade of teaching experience at Christendom College (Front Royal, Virginia), where he was an Associate Professor of History and served as Department Chairman for the last five years. Professor Blum has displayed considerable breadth in his teaching; in addition to his History offerings, has

taught courses in Euclidean Geometry, The History and Philosophy of Scientific Thought, The Essay, and Medieval Art and Architecture. He is a distinguished teacher and has been ranked highly over the last several years by the nationally acclaimed *Choosing the Right College*, which remarks that Dr. Blum has always been one “counted on for exceptional courses.” In addition to teaching, Dr. Blum has served extensively on the College’s senior Curriculum Committee and was the chief architect behind Christendom College’s Medieval Festival, held an-

nually near the Feast of All Saints. He and his wife Kathleen have both been Advisors for the American School in Switzerland.

Dr. Blum was educated at the University of Virginia, where he graduated B.A. with distinction in Biology and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa (the nation’s oldest undergraduate liberal arts honors society, founded in 1776). As a National Science Foundation Fellow, he studied at the University of Notre Dame, where he received the M.A. in History & Philosophy of Science, and later the Ph.D. in History & Philosophy of Science and European History. His dissertation examined the life and work of St-George J. Mivart, an outspoken critic of the adequacy of Darwinian theory. Dr. Blum was also the recent recipient of a Fellowship from the National Endowment for Humanities to participate in the summer session on Gothic art and architecture.

Dr. Blum’s published essays include studies of Jane Austin, the notion of the Common Good, the abbey church at Vézelay, Euclid’s *Elements*, the educational vision of John Henry Newman, and the French Catholic political author, Louis de Bonald. He has published widely in such journals as *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*, *Modern Age*, *The Downside Review*, *The Journal of Education*, and *Sacred Architecture*. Dr. Blum is an adept translator of French and has edited two volumes of French Catholic social thought, *Critics of the Enlightenment* (2004) and *The True and Only Wealth of Nations* (2006). Daniel Mahoney, a scholar of French and political thought, has described Blum’s work as “handsome and ably translated” and *National Review* magazine has stated that “Christopher Blum illu-

Former Rome semester theology professor named Bishop of Melbourne

In 1983, the Thomas More College of Liberal Arts launched what would prove to be one of its most enduring and endearing projects—the annual Rome semester for sophomore students. That same fateful year, the administrative staff began a thorough search in the Eternal City for someone to teach the theology course on the Rome campus. Dr. Mumbach recalls she began by “asking for help from a friend, Dr. Josef Seifert, founder of International Academy of Philosophy. ... He sent me to Msgr. Caffaro, who, in turn, recommended Msgr. Peter John Elliott.”

Thus began a longstanding friendship between Monsignor Elliott and Thomas More College. And so, it was with great excitement the TMC community heard on April 30, 2007, that His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has named Msgr. Peter Elliott as Titular Bishop of Manaccenser and Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, Australia. Ordained to the episcopacy on June 18, Bishop Elliott is well remembered by faculty and alums for his conversion story: He is the son of an Anglican priest, making him the third Australian Catholic bishop with an Anglican background.

In 1986, Msgr. Elliott gave an address at TMC’s graduation banquet and remained on campus for a week of quiet to work on his thesis. The Thomas More community sends its heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Elliott. We pray God that he is granted many years as a tiller in the Lord’s vineyard.



minates a neglected tradition important to anyone interested in the battle over the nature and future of the West.”

Dr. Blum has been appointed Professor of Humanities effective August 1, 2007.

Valerie Burgess



Valerie Burgess joined Thomas More College as Executive Assistant to the President on May 1. Valerie served as Executive Assistant to the President and Vice President of Operation of a major division at Brookstone, Inc., and also held a similar position for the Operations Vice President at Lindt chocolate company. She is a native of Merrimack, NH and currently lives in Nashua enjoying her two young grandchildren. A mother of two sons, she married her high school sweetheart thirty years ago.

William Edmund Fahey



William Fahey comes to Thomas More College after nearly a decade of teaching at Christendom College (Front Royal, Virginia), where he established the Department of Classical and Early Christian Studies, of which he was Chairman. While at Christendom he has taught courses in Greek, Latin, Classical and Byzantine History, Patristic Theology, Mediaeval Political Thought, and Classical and Early Christian Literature. Fahey also taught at The Catholic University of America, as well as at Brookfield Academy (Wisconsin) and the American Academy (St. Davids, Pennsylvania). In addi-

tion to holding posts on a number of faculty committees, Dr. Fahey was editor of the journal *Faith & Reason*, Director of the Christendom College Press, and President of Faculty Senate.

Educated at Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio) in Classics and History, Fahey pursued postgraduate studies in Ancient History at University of St. Andrews (Scotland), where he met his wife and still managed to complete his M.Phil. He earned both the M.A. and Ph.D. in Early Christian Studies from the Catholic University of America. He has held a number of distinguished fellowships, including the Thomas Savage, SJ Fellowship for excellence in Humanities; the Russell Trust Award of the University of St. Andrews; The McGuire-Peebles Fellowship at the Catholic University of America; the Richard M. Weaver Fellowship; the Marguerite Eyer Wilbur Fellowship; two Earhart Fellowships; and was a Salvatori Fellow at the Heritage Foundation (Washington, DC). His archeological work has lead him to Wales, the south-east coast of England, eastern Turkey and the Alpine valleys on Italy.

Dr. Fahey's scholarly interests extend from the Classical World through the Fathers of the Church to the importance of Agrarian thought on past and contemporary culture. He has published in the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, *The St. Austin Review*, *Faith & Reason*, *The University Bookman*, *Classical World*, and *The Classical Bulletin*. Dr. Fahey has recently finished co-editing (with Joseph Pearce) a volume of Hilaire Belloc's political thought, as well as an anthology on the principle of subsidiarity. He is currently translating St. Robert Bellarmine's political writings.

Dr. Fahey is a Benedictine Oblate (novice) with the Monastery of Our Lady of the Annunciation (Clear Creek, Oklahoma). His wife Amy is a doctor in English literature from Washington University, St. Louis, and an M.Phil. from St. Andrews, Scotland.

Dr. Fahey has been appointed Professor of Humanities and Provost of the College effective August 1, 2007.

John Zmirak



John Zmirak received his B.A. in Christianity and Literature from Yale University in 1986, then studied Creative Writing and English literature at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge—receiving his M.F.A. in screenwriting and fiction in 1990, and his Ph.D. in English in 1996. He taught composition at LSU and screenwriting at Tulane University, and has sold three screenplays to director Ronald Maxwell (*Gods & Generals* and *Gettysburg*). His professional experience includes work as Press Secretary to pro-life Louisiana Governor Mike Foster, and as a reporter and editor at *Success* magazine and *Investor's Business Daily*, among other publications. His essays, poems, and other works have appeared in *First Things*, *The Weekly Standard*, *Front-Page Magazine*, *The American Conservative*, *The Atlantic*, *Modern Age*, *The New Republic*, and the *National Catholic Register*, among other venues. He has contributed to *American Conservatism: An Encyclopedia* and *The Encyclopedia of Catholic Social Thought*. As a Web editor, Dr. Zmirak created two Catholic Internet portals, Catholic-families.net and Catholic.net. From 2000-2004 he served as Senior Editor of *Faith & Family* magazine and

a reporter at the *National Catholic Register*, and he remains a contributing editor at Godspy.com and *The American Conservative*.

Dr. Zmirak remains the editor-in-chief of the series of college guides published by Intercollegiate Studies Institute, including *Choosing the Right College* and *All American Colleges*. His published works include *Wilhelm Röpke* (2001), *The Bad Catholic's Guide to Good Living* (2005), *The Bad Catholic's Guide to Wine, Whiskey and Song*, and *The Grand Inquisitor* (forthcoming, 2007), a blank-verse graphic novel. He is a native of Astoria, New York, and has resided for most of his life on the same block where he was baptized and confirmed. Thomas More College is the first position which has tempted him to relocate from his home soil, or, rather, asphalt. Dr. Zmirak will join Thomas More College on August 1, 2007 as Writer-in-Residence and Special Assistant to the President.

TMC Board of Directors adds four new members

Frederic Clark



Frederic Clark is President of Pacific Equity Management and Inner-City Scholarship, Inc. He received his A.B. degree from University

of Southern California, his J.D. degree from University of California, Berkeley, and his M.B.A. from Harvard University. He is on the board of International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, Los Ninos, and Thomas More College. He is a volunteer teacher at an inner-city school and runs a scholarship program for inner-city youth.

Mr. Clark lives in California and is married to Peggy Clark. They have two children who both attended the Thomas More College Collegiate Summer Program.

Victoria Hughes



Victoria Hughes established the Bill of Rights Institute in 1999 to educate the next generation about America's Founding principles. Under Victoria's leadership, the Bill of Rights Institute has provided more than 30,000 teachers with instructional material on the Founding documents. In addition, the Institute has conducted Constitutional Seminars for nearly 10,000 teachers in order to increase their background knowledge and help them more effectively engage their students with America's Founding principles.

Prior to establishing the Bill of Rights Institute, Mrs. Hughes served in senior executive roles in several nonprofit and governmental organizations, including stints at the Charles Koch Foundation, Citizens for a Sound Economy, the Heritage Foundation, the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, and the U.S. Information Agency. Mrs. Hughes also lived three years in Barbados, where—as the wife of the United States Ambassador—she actively participated in many charitable activities benefiting the islands of the Eastern Caribbean.

Mrs. Hughes began her career as a classroom teacher, and has taught in suburban Cincinnati, Boston, and inner-city Washington, D.C. She earned her degree in Education from the University of Dayton. She has been married to Ambassador Philip Hughes for 31 years. They reside in Falls Church, Virginia.

Rep. Maureen Mooney



Rep. Maureen C. Mooney is in her third term in the New Hampshire House of Representatives serving the town of Merrimack. Representative Mooney was appointed the Assistant Republican Leader, and is a member of the Rules Committee and a third term member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Rep. Mooney has held several offices in county and state government, and political organizations. She has sponsored and co-sponsored significant legislation, including enhancing taxpayer rights, expanding protection for abandoned children, and improving school safe zones, among others. She has chaired numerous judiciary subcommittees which address issues such as eminent domain reform and the Right-to-Know law, and chairs the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department budget subcommittee. She served as a consultant for two presidential campaigns.

Rep. Mooney serves on the Advisory Board of the Academy of the Holy Family and is a Trustee of the Thomas More College of Liberal Arts in Merrimack, NH. In 2006, she was named one of the New Hampshire Union Leader's "40 Under Forty," which recognizes outstanding New Hampshire residents under the age of 40. The Nashua Area Federation of Republican Women named her "2007 Republican Woman of the Year."

Representative Mooney graduated from the Academy of the Holy Family in 1993, studied classical humanities, art and architecture in Rome, Italy, and Vatican City in 1995, received her B.A. in Political Science from the Thomas More

President Nelson meets Boston Cardinal-Archbishop O'Malley

As an active member of Legatus—a lay organization made up of Catholic business and organizational leaders who seek to spread the Faith in both their professional and personal lives—President O. Jeffrey Nelson has had occasion to meet many notable churchmen. He was particularly honored recently when, at the Boston chapter meeting, he had the opportunity to speak with the *primus inter pares* of Catholic Ordinaries in the New England region, Sean Cardinal O'Malley, O.F.M., the cardinal-archbishop of Boston.



President Nelson reported the Cardinal as “very enthusiastic about Thomas More College and our efforts.” In fact, he went on, “His Eminence described the work of humanely-scaled institutions, such as ours, as essential and at the heart of the Church’s efforts to foster the new evangelization. He sees our College as a place that will help form future Christian leaders in every field of endeavor, as well as serve as a fount for new vocations to the priestly and religious life.”

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Offering his personal impressions, President Nelson commented, “What I find especially admirable about the Cardinal is how he has, in the face of considerable challenges, managed to maintain the cheerful disposition which permeates Franciscan spirituality. Despite his high ecclesiastical office, he has not dispensed himself from the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. His fidelity to his religious vows and the permanent things makes for a powerful witness in this age of materialism.”

College of Liberal Arts in 1997, and received her J.D. degree from Massachusetts School of Law in 2000.

Edward O'Connor



Edward O'Connor is the managing partner of Exertus Partners, a global management consulting firm focused on the technology, telecom

and media industries. Edward's professional background is in venture capital and business advisory services (Chase Capital Partners and JP Morgan Partners); he has also held executive and managerial positions at ESPN, AGIC and Young Presidents' Organization. Edward is an honors graduate of the University of Texas (B.A. and M.A.), and has completed coursework toward the doctorate (in po-

litical philosophy) at the University of Dallas. Edward lives in New Haven, CT, with his wife, Molly (*Class of 1987*), and their five children.

32nd Annual Collegiate Summer Program begins

As this issue of *Communitas* goes to print, high school students from across the country have just descended on Thomas More College's campus for the 32nd Annual Collegiate Summer Program. Students will emerge from this program with a much better understanding and appreciation of the venerable culture of the Christian West by studying politics, literature, history, philosophy, and apologetics for two full weeks.

Participating students are surrounded by a community of learners dedicated to renewing the spirit of liberal learning and humane living as it was developed in the Middle Ages and continued throughout Western history. They are developing friendships that last a lifetime as they study, play sports, and pray together. Students are also participating in daytrips to historic Boston's Freedom Trail, hiking on Mount Monadnock, and swimming off the coast of Maine.

The TMC faculty is also working closely with each individual student to improve their writing skills so they can master one of the most important competencies necessary for success.

Look for a full report on this year's summer program in the fall issue of *Communitas*.

WANT MORE?

For more TMC news and information, visit us online at ThomasMoreCollege.edu

CLASS NOTES

1980s

Sheila O'Connor-Ambrose (*Class of 1986*) was awarded a Ph.D. in Women's Studies by Emory University.

Newcomer: Joseph Peter Lloyd, born to Susan Tardiff (*Class of 1988*) and Gregory Lloyd on February 3, 2007.

1990s

Reginald Johnson (*Class of 1992*) has accepted the position of Dean of Studies at Cardinal Newman School in Houston, Texas.

Kale Zelden (*Class of 1995*) has been appointed a teacher of Humanities and English at Portsmouth Abbey School.

Newcomer: Walter George Saffian, born to John Saffian (*Class of 1993*) and Annette Artus (*Class of 1995*) on December 30, 2006.

Newcomer: Hannah Marie Magnificat Zelden, born to Kale (*Class of 1995*) and Dimi Zelden on February 1, 2007.

Newcomer: Magdalena Rose Connolly, born to Kelly Maw (*Class of 1997*) and Ken Connolly on April 25, 2007.

Newcomer: Isabella Gertrud Kohler, born to Renee Ryan (*Class of 1997*) and Johannes Kohler on June 14, 2007.

2000s

Peter Skidd (*Class of 2000*) will have art featured in "Extreme Make-over Home Edition."

Kevin Lieberman (*Class of 2000*) was ordained on May 26, 2007, at San Nicola in Carcere, Rome, Italy.

Joseph Brackett (*Class of 2001*) was awarded a Juris Doctor by Ave Maria School of Law.

Joseph Miceli (*Class of 2001*) was awarded a Juris Doctor by Ave Maria School of Law.

Meghan Keohane (*Class of 2004*) was awarded a Master's degree in English by Fordham University.

Married: Marie Lizotte (*Class of 2003*) to Sean Poza at St. Kathryn Church in Hudson, New Hampshire.

Married: Meghan Mulhern (*Class of 2006*) to John Pakala (*Class of 2007*) on June 15, 2007, in the Thomas More College Chapel.

Married: Jesse Kurtz (*Class of 2007*) to Cara Whittaker on June 9, 2007, in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Newcomer: Irena Teresa LaVergne, born to Monika Cooper (*Class of 2003*) and Benjamin LaVergne (*Class of 2004*) on December 30, 2006.

Newcomer: Timothy James Corwin III, born to Emily Gunyan (*Class of 2002*) and Tim Corwin (*Class of 1999*) on January 22, 2007.

Kate Monaghan (*Class of 2006*) was awarded a Philips Foundation Journalism Fellowship to research and write on the topic "Political Celebrities: Celebrating Mediocrity in America."

In Memorium: Beverly Arthur LeDonne



With sorrow the College received news that on July 9, 2007, Beverly Arthur LeDonne (*Class of 1991*) and her husband Mark drowned while swimming in a lake near her hometown in Panama City, Florida, where they were visiting family.

Beverly always expressed gratitude for her Thomas More College education and had provided for the College an incisive alumni testimonial published on our web site ("The Question of Humanities"). We are grateful for her, and honored to count her among our alumni. Beverly and her family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Beverly was a literature major. Her junior project at TMC focused on the poet W. B. Yeats. Before enrolling in the College, she attended the Collegiate Summer Program for High School Students. After graduation, she went on to earn a Master's degree in Business Administration from Louisiana State University. She was the director of strategy at GCI-Internet. She resided in Saugus, Massachusetts.

She is survived by a son, Joseph, and daughters, Emily and Olivia. Donations to a trust fund that has been set up for the LeDonne's children may be sent to The LeDonne Family Trust Fund, c/o TD Banknorth, 637 Lowell St., Peabody, MA 01960.

think again.

Education is a never-ending process—or should be. And what we learn depends largely on what catches our imagination. Recently, I learned something by chance that changed the way I look at the world.

Like many people, I grew up with the idea that the light by which we see things emanates from a source, bounces off the thing I am looking at, and collides with a cell in my retina. Not true, apparently.

When a photon hits something, it is absorbed. This energy is then radiated back again as light: not the same photons, but new ones. In a way, then, the whole world is glowing. The leaves on the trees are alight. Your eyes are (almost literally) shining like stars.

Such a world is much more alive, more beautiful, it seems to me, than the

passive, *lumpen* world I previously inhabited. Matter is active in revealing its colors and shapes to our eye. I think St. Denys would have appreciated this insight. The way light is passed on by matter is an analogy for the way spiritual illumination is passed down the hierarchy of angels: each angel makes the light his own, and illuminates the others by his own gift.

If Thomas More College is to contribute in a small way to the rebirth of civilization in the future, it will be by a kindling of the imagination. Faith and reason both need imagination to thrive and grow. They meet and embrace in the images that our words constantly evoke, which are the vehicles of meaning. And the beauty of images can point us towards a truth that transcends them all.



Stratford Caldecott
Editor, *Second Spring*

*See <http://juniorengineering.usu.edu/workshops/light/light.pdf>.



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